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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Roberta "Bobbie" Raymond on May 7, 2019 at the age of 80; and

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WHEREAS, Bobbie Raymond was born on November 16, 1938 in Oak Park to William and Rosemary Wolin; she was a lifelong resident of Oak Park and graduated from Oak Park and River Forest High School in 1955; and

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WHEREAS, Bobbie Raymond worked as a child actor in Chicago from 1945 to 1952, later using the stage name Roberta Alden when she appeared in NBC Radio shows, Jack Armstrong, the All-American Boy, and Cricket on the Hearth; she also did commercials, trade shows, and television and had a lead role in the pre-Broadway cast of Tender Loving Care in 1960; and

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WHEREAS, Bobbie Raymond studied sociology at Drake University, studied racial integration and the fair housing movement at Hunter College, and earned a master's degree with honors from Roosevelt University, where she wrote her sociology thesis on Oak Park and the challenge to achieving long-term racial diversity and integration; and

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WHEREAS, Bobbie Raymond was a foundational figure in Oak

1 Park's long experiment in racial integration; she ultimately
2 earned the reputation of being Oak Park's fiercest advocate,
3 leaving behind an enormous legacy of activism and lifelong
4 dedication to public service for the Oak Park community; and

5 WHEREAS, Bobbie Raymond is described as an agent of social
6 change within Oak Park's wall of fame biography; she joined the
7 Oak Park Citizens Committee for Human Rights as she began her
8 activism in fair housing and then started the Oak Park Housing
9 Center in 1972, a nonprofit focused on maintaining racial
10 integration, where she served as executive director for 26
11 years until retiring in 1996; and

12 WHEREAS, Bobbie Raymond was featured in the documentary, As
13 Time Goes By: Oak Park, Illinois, which premiered at the Lake
14 Theatre in 1974 and was later shown on WTTW; she wrote the
15 winning presentation script for Oak Park's All-America City
16 Award in 1976, was featured on CBS 60 Minutes in 1978, and
17 appeared on the last Phil Donahue Show; and

18 WHEREAS, Bobbie Raymond, as part of her work at the Housing
19 Center, helped to found the influential Oak Park Exchange
20 Congress, which gathered like-minded communities from around
21 America to share best practices on integration efforts; she
22 also helped to create Oak Park's A Day in Our Village community
23 celebration, collaborated with the Austin Shock Historical

1 Association to create a house walk in the Austin neighborhood,
2 and organized the Boulevard Run, a 10K race running through Oak
3 Park and Austin, including Columbus Park; and

4 WHEREAS, Bobbie Raymond, after her retirement from the
5 Housing Center, served on the boards of the Oak Park
6 Development Corporation, the Doris Humphrey Foundation, the
7 Ernest Hemingway Foundation, and the Oak Park Art League; she
8 pursued her many other interests, including painting,
9 gardening, play writing, and traveling, including to Door
10 County, Wisconsin; she was a longtime member of the Oak Park
11 River Forest Garden Club, founded a French Club conversation
12 class, and helped to found the First Tuesday Club, which
13 brought independent and art films to the Lake Theatre; and

14 WHEREAS, Bobbie Raymond was instrumental in the rebirth of
15 the Oak Park River Forest High School Alumni Association and
16 took great pride in its efforts to fund life-changing summer
17 learning and travel experiences for high school students who
18 were unlikely to have such opportunities; and

19 WHEREAS, Bobbie Raymond was the originator of Oak Park's
20 first paper recycling program and counted among her many honors
21 are the Ulyssean, the Athena, the Eleanor Roosevelt
22 Humanitarian, and the Studs Terkel Awards; and

1 WHEREAS, Bobbie Raymond was deeply devoted to her son,
2 Charles, and loved spending time with her grandson, Trevor,
3 making crepes together, playing scrabble, and sharing with him
4 her love of the arts; and

5 WHEREAS, Bobbie Raymond is survived by her husband, Richard
6 Gustavus Larson; her son, Charles D. Raymond and
7 daughter-in-law, Christi Ausland-Raymond; her former husband,
8 Geoffrey Raymond; and her grandson, Trevor William Raymond;
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
12 Roberta "Bobbie" Raymond and extend our sincere condolences to
13 her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to the family of Bobbie Raymond as an expression of
17 our deepest sympathy.